CONSTITUTION
OF THE
NATIVE VILLAGE OF RUSSIAN MISSION

PREAMBLE

We, the Alaska Natives having a common bond of residence in the vicinity of Russian Mission, Alaska, on the Yukon River, establish this Constitution in order to promote our economic and political progress as a sovereign people of Alaska.

ARTICLE I-NAME

This is the Constitution of the people and government of the Native Village of Russian Mission.

ARTICLE II-TERRITORY AND JURISDICTION

The territory and jurisdiction of the Native Village of Russian Mission shall extend to all Traditional Boundaries, including all lands selected by or for the original village corporation, Russian Mission Village Corporation, established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

ARTICLE III-MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Native Village of Russian Mission shall consist of Alaska Natives whose names appear on the Russian Mission Traditional Council Tribal Enrollment Index as of November 15, 1992. This shall establish the BASE ROLL.

The direct descendants of such members are also eligible for membership. Other members may be accepted by adoption by council action. Enrollment shall be established by ordinance.

ARTICLE IV-RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

All members of the village shall enjoy equal rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, consistent with the customs and laws of the village. The tribe shall provide all people in its jurisdiction the rights required by the Indian Civil Rights Act.

ARTICLE V-GOVERNING BODY

Section 1. Name: The governing body of the Native Village of Russian Mission shall be the Russian Mission Traditional Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council.

Section 2. Number on Council: The council shall consist of five (5) members who shall be elected by the majority vote of the qualified members of the village.

Section 3. Officers: The council shall include a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and two (2) members.

ARTICLE VI-ELECTIONS

Section 1. Elections: Elected officials will be elected by a vote of all the qualified members of the Native Village of Russian Mission, eighteen (18) years of age or older and meet the membership requirements in Article III.

After the initial elections, three of the five officials will be elected to hold office for two years, while the other two officials will be elected to hold office for one year, thereafter the terms will be staggered.

Section 2. Nominations: The time, place and manner of nominations shall be specified in the election ordinance adopted by the members pursuant to adoption of this constitution.

ARTICLE VII-POWERS

Section 1. Inherent Powers: The council shall have the inherent powers of a tribal government, including, but not limited to those specified in this Article.

Unless exercised by the membership, all powers shall be exercised by the council. The Council may authorize an officer to act in specific circumstances, set by the council from time to time.

Section 2. Internal Council Procedures: The council may enact rules of procedure by ordinance or by-law, these may include:

a. Removal from Office and replacement;

b. Quorum requirements;

c. Regular and special meetings and notice of such meetings.

Section 3. Other Powers:

a. To negotiate/contract with State, Federal or Private agencies and persons on behalf of the Native Village of Russian Mission;

b. To acquire property, accept gifts and prevent the alienation or loss of tribal property without the consent of the village membership;

c. To exercise the power of consent under 14(f) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;

d. To protect members' rights in property, including tribal property;

e. To charter enterprises, corporations and associations, and to join and/or charter housing authorities;

f. To administer village assets;

g. To promote health and safety of tribal membership;

h. To administer Justice and establish Tribal Courts;

i. To levy and collect taxes, fees and assessments;

j. To encourage and protect tribal traditions, language and culture; and,

k. To enact ordinances and regulations to exercise any power of government, not prohibited by law.

Section 4. Waivers: The jurisdiction or any immunity of the tribe may only be waived by majority vote of the entire membership qualified to vote.

Section 5. Retained Powers: The retained powers of the Native Village of Russian Mission, not stated in the Constitution shall not be lost by omission, but may be exercised by vote of the membership by initiative or referendum.

ARTICLE VIII-MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

Section 1. Initiative: The eligible voters of the village shall have the right to propose legislation and vote by secret ballot to determine whether it will be adopted or rejected. Upon receipt of a valid petition signed by at least thirty percent (30%) of the eligible voters, the council shall call an election to be conducted by the election board no later than thirty days after receipt of the petition. An affirmative vote by at least a majority of the eligible voters shall be required to determine the issues or questions submitted to the voters.

Section 3. Recall: Members shall have the power to recall any member of the council. The recall process shall be initiated by filing a valid petition asking for such recall.

Section 4. Decisions: The decision of the voters in initiative, referendum and recall elections shall be binding on the council and the village and shall remain in full force until amended or rescinded by subsequent action of the voters or expires by its own terms.

ARTICLE IX-MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings: Regular meetings of the Council shall be held monthly. The time, place, and date of the meetings will be designated by the council.

Section 2. Special Meetings: Special meetings of the council may be called by the president and shall be called by him/her upon a 24 hour notice. The council shall have the power to transact business as in a regular meeting, provided that a quorum is present.

Section 3. Annual Meetings of the Members: Regular meetings of the general membership of the Native Village of Russian Mission shall be held annually. The date, time, and place of such meetings shall be decided at a Council meeting where at least a quorum is present.

ARTICLE X-SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Constitution shall, in the future, be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalid provision shall be severed and the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE XI-AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a majority of the qualified voters of the Native Village of Russian Mission voting in an election called for that purpose, or at the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE XII-ADOPTION

This Constitution may be adopted by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Native Village of Russian Mission voting at an election called for that specific purpose and shall be effective from the date of approval.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

This Constitution of the Native Village of Russian Mission, was submitted for adoption to the qualified voters of the Native Village of Russian Mission and was adopted/rejected by a vote of 45 for, and 0 against, in an election in which at least thirty percent (30%) of the [illegible] entitled to vote on May 23, 1993.

[signature] 4-23-93
President: Date:

Loney S. Duffy 4-23-93
Vice-President: Date:

Mary Belkoff 4-23-93
Secretary/Treasurer: Date: